

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 22nd November 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1567. The *Indian Mirror* reverts to the situation on the frontier, where in its opinion the prospects have become gloomier than ever, and side by side with the preparations for the Delhi Darbar have proceeded preparations for a "punitive expedition"; only, it says, the title has been omitted, and a more innocuous one of a mere blockade has been substituted. Government, it says, are minimizing the real state of affairs, whereas the *Englishman*, which held an optimistic view all this while, has suddenly taken a much more alarming view of the situation than does the *Mirror* itself.

INDIAN MIRROR,
18th Nov. 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1568. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, quoting the different Regulations of Lord Cornwallis on the subject, describes how the landholding classes were first relieved of all police duties and next of the cost of maintaining the police, because the latter pressed hard upon all concerned; and, contrasting the conduct of the Government of those days with that of the rulers of the present time, is surprised that the latter are not even aware of the cruel nature of the *chaukidari* tax.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Nov. 1902.

It appeals to the Police Commission to do its duty honestly and manfully, and if it is convinced that the Government of Lord Cornwallis really gave a pledge that the people of Bengal would not be asked to pay a police tax, it should recommend the abolition of the *chaukidari* tax. As one of the main purposes of the stamp duty was to meet the cost of maintaining the police, it ought to be spent upon the improvement of the police.

1569. The *Bengalee* trusts there will be a strenuous opposition to any further expansion of the sections relating to badliveliness and the taking of recognizance for keeping the peace, with the object of reaching *badmashes* both of the criminal and political order.

BENGALIEE,
19th Nov. 1902.

It also expresses the greatest sympathy with the *Englishman's* proposition that the District Magistrate should be relieved of his judicial work and the District Superintendent of all work, making the former in reality what he is—the head of the District Police. Of course he will need one or two Personal Assistants for police work; but he will no longer be both Judge and Thief-catcher.

1570. Answering this question in the negative, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* affirms that the grounds on which the authorities usually recommend the quartering of punitive police are generally exaggerated, and as the question of riots is likely to engage the attention of the Police Commission, the journal trusts they will try to understand the real situation, which it describes as follows:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Nov. 1902.

"The people of India, especially those of Bengal, have been thoroughly tamed. The manliness they had in the beginning of British rule has been entirely taken away from them by the system of rigorous administration introduced in the country. They have been thoroughly disarmed; the police harass them in a manner unknown anywhere else in the world; the Magistrates and Judges punish them with undue severity; malaria is constantly eating into their vitals: add to this that they are naturally gentle, law-abiding and non-criminal. Is it not, therefore, a wonder that punitive police force should be so frequently quartered in the country?"

It urges on the Commission to represent that there is great abuse of this measure in the hands of the police; that the latter are interested in the location of punitive police; that for the faults of a very few people, thousands of men are subjected to untold sufferings and that the Government should never agree to resort to the measure on the mere report of a police officer, without previously holding a magisterial investigation.

BENGALIEE,
20th Nov. 1902.

1571. The *Bengalee*, in reiterating its view that the appointment of District Superintendent of Police should be made entirely independent of the District Magistrate, adds that with a vigilant Magistracy to scrutinise its conduct, the Police of the District ought to be under the control of an officer, who, trained from his youth in its duties, will be able to exercise an efficient supervision of its work, who will be able to bring his own extensive experience to bear on the proper discharge of the difficult duties of his office, who, if need should arise, may take upon himself the active supervision of investigations in cases of more than ordinary difficulty, and who, thoroughly well-acquainted himself with the language of the people and their manners and customs, will not be compelled to rely on subordinates, who may play him false.

It then describes the circumstances which to a great extent explain the extensive prevalence of corruption in the police as at present constituted, and thinks that although those circumstances might never be removed from the organisation of the police, there is a chance of modifying their evil effects by separating the executive from the judicial.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th Nov. 1902.

1572. The *Indian Nation* reflects on the ordinary verdicts in cases of death caused by the rupture of the spleen, and finds that in many cases the conclusion that they are simple assaults is grossly erroneous.

"If the immediate antecedent of death is rupture of the spleen, it does not by any means follow that the physical violence which led to the rupture is not to be treated as a cause of the death. On the contrary, if the rupture is the cause of the death and the violence was the cause of the rupture, the violence must be taken as the cause of the death. Death never arises without something in the nature of a disease or injury happening to one at least of the vital organs.

"It is a well-known law that to accelerate the death of a person is to cause his death. Assuming that a man's spleen was disordered, whoever by violence breaks it, accelerates the death of the man and must be taken as having caused his death."

Offences of the kind referred to are, in the opinion of the *Nation*, neither adequately punished nor adequately discouraged, when they are disposed of by Courts in the way they are.

(d)—Education.

BEHAR HERALD,
19th Nov. 1902.

1573. The *Behar Herald* says that the "Pronunciation Circular" is a curious document. As a literary production it is deficient in the very knowledge of English, which it insists upon. As a measure of educational policy it is premature, unjust and insensate. It quotes the following passage from it:—

"The examination in question will be held by Inspectors of Schools, Principals and Professors of Colleges affiliated to the Calcutta University, and heads of Training Colleges *born* as British subjects, and *who have been educated* in the British Islands or in any British colony."

It criticises the passage thus:—

"The italics are ours. It will be seen how poor English grammar has been rudely knocked on the head, so as to make Adams and Bain turn in their graves! Well may the people cry, 'Physician heal thyself.'"

BENGALIEE,
20th Nov. 1902.

1574. The *Bengalee* complains that it was a mistake to locate the barracks of the Military medical students where they stand at present. Reports of their misbehaviour are being constantly made, the last instance taking place on the 18th instant, when they created a disturbance at and did substantial mischief to the house of a respectable Indian in the neighbourhood. The journal hopes the matter will draw the attention of the Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, who is besought to put a stop to this sort of lawlessness.

1575. The *Bengalee* writes that the Principal of the Lahore Veterinary College has recently departed from the established practice of that institution, and not only held a *post-mortem* on a bull, but has ordered that in future the thing will be done as a matter of course. The decision could serve only one purpose, namely, to exasperate the students, and if after this the majority of them should leave the College, its very existence would be jeopardised. It appeals to the Principal to take prompt measures to undo the mischief that he has done. If he refuses, the result will be that the motive of the *Sirkar* will be misconstrued, as the story circulates through the land, gathering embellishments in its course.

BENGALIE,
20th Nov. 1902.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigations.*

1576. The *Bengalee* supports the petition of the third class monthly ticket-holders for Howrah from stations below Bhadressar, addressed to the Agent, East Indian Railway, praying for a reduction in the rates at present charged on their monthly tickets. Concessions have been made on the tickets of the three upper classes, while the fares for the 3rd class monthly alone have remained unchanged.

BENGALIE,
15th Nov. 1902.

(h)—*General.*

1577. The *Bengalee* desires to press upon the attention of the Viceroy the all-important question of the grant of boons to the millions of His Majesty's Indian subjects at the forthcoming Delhi Darbar. The opportunity should be seized to make an *amende honorable* to the Ruling Princes and Chiefs of India for the past disregard of treaties concluded with them, and restore to them the privileges which have been withheld. In particular it is suggested that His Excellency should give back the full powers under the treaty to the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, and reduce the obnoxious features of the salt and income taxes.

BENGALIE,
15th Nov. 1902.

1578. Referring to the prospect of an early accession to the strength of the European Army in India, the *Bengalee* exclaims: "Truly, it takes a great deal to break the back of that most patient and forbearing of all quadrupeds—the Indian tax-payer!"

BENGALIE,
16th Nov. 1902.

If the need for this augmentation may arise, the journal says it would be easy for Government to demand a loan of the requisite number of additional British troops from England. This would obviate the necessity of making any *permanent* addition to the strength of the European Army.

1579. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains the reasons why so many more men should die in Bengal than in England:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Nov. 1902.

The growing poverty is, of course, the main cause. The strain upon the system to learn a foreign and difficult language like English is another. And the political disabilities which have made the people something like children and babies in the hands of foreigners even in municipal matters, and sometimes in domestic affairs, is the third. The last census is a dreadful study to the Hindus of the country. Fancy in Bengal, while Mussalmans, Europeans and Eurasians have vastly increased during the last decade, the Hindus show a decrease by two per cent!

1580. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the letter of a correspondent from Sambalpur relating that a Maharaja (whose name the Editor suppresses) is trying to raise a loan of Rs. 30,000 to meet his expenses at the Delhi Darbar to which he has been invited. The *Patrika* says that this represents the position of several Chiefs who, having received invitations, think they are bound to go to Delhi or otherwise offend the Government. Cannot, asks the journal, His Excellency extricate them from their trouble?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
17th Nov. 1902.

1581. The *Indian Mirror*, reflecting on the factors which make against the success of the Delhi Darbar, mentions two that attract the attention of the hostile critic, viz., the cost of the pageant and the vital question of health. The cost to the Princes

INDIAN MIRROR,
19th Nov. 1902.

and noblemen who have already contributed towards memorials, &c., would be more advantageously employed in the betterment of their people. Delhi is notoriously unhealthy in normal years. If disease of any kind breaks out during the Darbar and should the epidemic turn out to be plague, Delhi will be a regular death trap.

The *Mirror* hopes for the best and wishes that no unfortunate incident of any kind may mar the success of the Darbar, although it entertains serious apprehensions on the subject.

BENGALIEE,
19th Nov. 1902.

1582. Referring to the probability that had Sir Alexander Mackenzie's health permitted his serving out the full term of his Lieutenant-Governorship, Sir Henry Cotton could hardly have failed to be his successor, the *Bengalee*

The Viceroy and Sir Henry Cotton.

has discovered an even more unpardonable offence, under the present regime to account for Sir Henry Cotton's ill-luck.

It says :—"For their favourite's own sake, the people of the country had best beware whom they next venture to place upon a higher pinnacle of popularity than His Excellency. Lord Curzon is clearly implacable on this score; and in the present instance he has not scrupled to take his revenge, although by his method of wreaking it he has thrown the administration of the Province into hopeless confusion. It was hardly worthy of him, and Bengal will not envy him any satisfaction that he may be able to derive from what he has done."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Nov. 1902.

1583. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, learning of the Lieutenant-Governor's continued ill-health, mentions the appeal to His Honour of the four men condemned to death in the

The interregnum in Bengal.

Nandigram case, and asks whether, if their case will be brought to the notice of Sir John Woodburn, he is in a condition to look into the matter, and if their prayer is rejected, whom the public would hold responsible for its rejection. This incident, it says, shows how the interests of the people are suffering on account of His Honour's illness, which should have attracted the attention of the Viceroy and led to temporary arrangements being made to place the affairs of the country in responsible hands. It proceeds to speculate as to Sir John Woodburn's successor and whether, if either Member of the Board of Revenue be appointed, it will be possible for the Government to perform its functions smoothly. Will the temporary Chief be able to exact obedience? Will the subordinates work with the same willing heart as before?

BENGALIEE,
19th Nov. 1902.

1584. The *Bengalee*, reviewing the situation in Bengal, with the Lieutenant-Governor growing steadily incapable of discharging the duties of his office, asks how

Ibid.

much longer it will take His Excellency the Viceroy to realize the predicament in which he is placing the Province by his extraordinary obliviousness to its needs, and put an end to an unedifying and exceedingly inconvenient situation. A rumour recently prevailed that Mr. Bourdillon had been selected to officiate. The *Bengalee* expresses approval of the selection, and wonders what hinders the translation of rumour into certainty.

BENGALIEE,
19th Nov. 1902.

1585. The *Bengalee* has no doubt that the Viceroy's action in regard to the Sialkot murder case has won for His Excellency the confidence and esteem of the educated section

The case of the IXth Lancers.

of the Indian community throughout the country.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Nov. 1902.

1586. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains that the administration of India is carried on by British officials in the interests of British officials, and points to the case, recently reported by it, in which the High Court ordered the re-trial of a case disposed of by

The administration carried on by British officials in the interests of British officials.

Mr. Warde-Jones, Subdivisional Officer of Kissenganj, who, in its opinion, ought to compensate the party suffering through his ignorance of the law. The importation of British officials into this country, in supersession of the claims of competent natives of the soil, the high salaries paid them, their favourable leave and pension rules—all this, it adds, constitutes further proof that the Empire is ruled in the interests of British officials.

1587. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* characterizes as mean the practice of asking officials whether or not they had furnished information to the Press. It is only the "native" subordinate who is treated in this 'mean' fashion, for no subordinate British official would, says the *Patrika*, ever tolerate such conduct from his superior officer.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th Nov. 1902.

1588. The *Indian Mirror* describes Lord Curzon's reply to the Ajmere Municipality as pathetic as it is modest, and as betraying an absence of that sharp note of aggressive self-assertiveness which characterizes his previous utterances. All India, it says, will ever be grateful to His Excellency for his tenderness to her ancient and decayed glories and to his impartial respect for life. His punishment of the 9th Lancers and the Rangoon regiment constitute acts of unswerving justice that mark Lord Curzon out from among all the Viceroy, and this is his highest claim to distinction and to the gratitude of the Indian people.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th Nov. 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1589. Referring to the grievances of British Indians in Africa, the *Behar Herald* rejoices to learn that a memorial has been presented to Parliament for their redress, and exclaims: "Will Christian England look on and see her Indian subjects maltreated in South Africa? . . . India pays her share towards the expenses of the British Empire. Does not this fact alone . . . entitle her people to protection and just treatment? . . . It is indeed little short of a public scandal that a Colonial Secretary who is indignant at every little outrage offered to an Englishman abroad, should turn a deaf ear to the appeals of so many Indian subjects of His Majesty."

BEHAR HERALD,
15th Nov. 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 22nd November 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

